Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
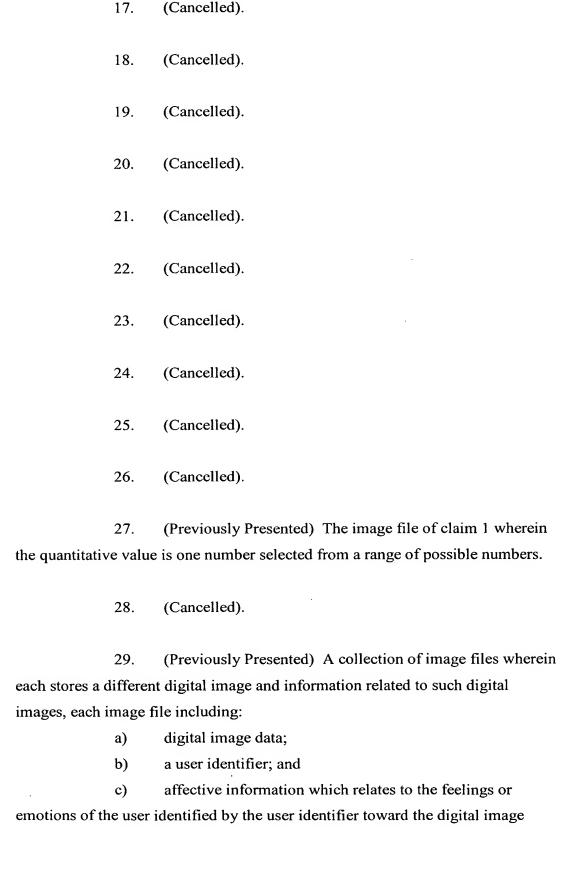
Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) An image file for storing a digital image and information related to the digital image, including:
      a)   digital image data;
      b)   a user identifier; and
      c)   affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user identified by the user identifier toward the digital image stored in the image file, wherein the affective information includes a quantitative value which is an importance rating of the digital image.

2.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the affective information was produced.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 1 wherein the image file further includes information related to the capture device used to capture the digital image.

5.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.

6.   (Currently Amended) The image file of claim 1 wherein the digital image file includes user identifiers for a plurality of users and a ~~like~~ corresponding plurality of quantitative values, where each quantitative value is an importance rating of the digital image for the associated user.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, wherein each digital image is stored using a digital image file that corresponds to the image file of claim 6, comprising the steps of:

a) a retrieval user providing a user identifier;

b) using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and

c) using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

10. (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

11. (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

12. (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Cancelled).

20.   (Cancelled).

21.   (Cancelled).

22.   (Cancelled).

23.   (Cancelled).

24.   (Cancelled).

25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Cancelled).

27.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 1 wherein the quantitative value is one number selected from a range of possible numbers.

28.   (Cancelled).

29.   (Previously Presented) A collection of image files wherein each stores a different digital image and information related to such digital images, each image file including:

a)   digital image data;

b)   a user identifier; and

c)   affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user identified by the user identifier toward the digital image

stored in the image file, wherein the affective information includes a quantitative value which is an importance rating of the digital image.

30.   (New) The image file of claim 1, wherein the image file is a JPEG 2000 image file.

31.   (New) The image file of claim 1, wherein the image file is a TIFF image file.

32.   (New) The image file of claim 1, wherein the image file is a EXIF image file.

33.   (New) The image file of claim 32, wherein the affective information is stored using a TIFF IFD.

34.   (New) The image file of claim 33, wherein the TIFF IFD also stores the user identifier.

35.   (New) The image file of claim 34, wherein the user identifier has a personal identification code.

36.   (New) The image file of claim 35, wherein the personal identification code is a globally unique ID.